THOMAS PAINE.

Thomas Paine was born at Thetford, Norfolk Coun ty, England, on the 29th of January, 1737, one hundred and twenty-one years ago to-day. His father was a Quaker, and a stay-maker, who brought up his son to follow his own trade. In 1757, young Paine went to London, and soon after to Sandwich, where he married in 1760 a wife who died a year afterward. His fatherin-law was an exciseman, and obtained a similar post for Paine; but he soon left it and returned to London where he for a time taught in a school; but he was again employed in the Excise and stationed at Lewes, in Sussex. He resigned this post in 1773-4 (his ene mies afterward said he was dismissed, having been caught countying with smugglers; but we believe this was a slander). Repairing again to London, he there sought out Benjamin Franklin, then agent for the American Colonies, by whose advice he migrated to this continent. He reached Philadelphia in 1774, and in January following became editor of "The Philo sophical Magazine."

The differences between the mother country and the Colonies were coming rapidly to a head, and Paine-an carnest republican-threw his whole sole into the cause of the Colonies. His first pamphle, "Common Sense," did more than any other essay to prepare the public mind for independence. The Legislature of Pennsylvania voted him £500 for it. He was afterward employed by Congress as Clerk of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and wrote at intervals during our Revolutionary struggle fifteen numbers of "The Crisis," each a stirring appeal to the patriotism of the American People. He was constrained to resign his clerkship in 1779, but was sent in 1781 on a mission to negotiate a loan in France, which mission proved sucmade Clark of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, received from Congress a donation of \$3,000, and the State of New-York bustowed on him the confiscated estate o Frederic Devoe, a royalist, containing 500 acres of good land with a good house in the town of New-Rochelle.

Paine returned to Europe in 1787, and published the first part of his "Rights of Man," in London, in 1791, and the second part in 1752. He was prosecuted for this as a "false, scandalous and malicious libel," and though defended by the celebrated Erskine, the jury convicted him without leaving their seats, and without hearing the Attorney-General sum up for the prosecution. For this defense Erskine lost his office of Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales. Paine escaped to France in September, 1792, and was received with open arms, having already been chosen from Calais to the National Convention. In that Convention he displeased the Jacobins (then in the ascendant) by voting for the banishment rather than the death of Louis XVIII. Toward the end of 1793, he was excluded from the Convention as a foreigner, and in 1794 was arrested by order of Robespierre, and imprisoned in the Luxembourg. While in prison he finished his "Age of Reason," which was an able but vielent and coarse attack on the Christian Religion. The fall of Robespierre restored him to liberty toward the close of 1794, and he resumed his seat in the Convention on the 8th of December in that year. He did not, however, make any figure in France, and, upon Mr. Jefferson's election to the Presidency, wrote him that he wished to return to America. Jefferson offered him a passage in a National vessel (the Maryland), but for some reason he did not accept it, but delayed his return to the following year, leaving France in August, and reaching Baltimore in October. failed to receive, however, from the triumphant De-morary or its Chief that recognition of his merits and his services which he doubtless anticipated. Jefferson liked Paine, and sympathized heartily in most of his views; but the grossness of his attacks on the Christish religion, coupled with a kindred assault on Gen. Washington, rendered it highly impolitic to give him any desire le office. He had by this time become addicted to drink, and his personal habits thereafter are said to have been unclessly and repulsive. Disapted ambition, blasted hopes, probably aggravated his foibles. He I ved thenceforth mainly in tais City and on his farm in New-Rochelle till his death, which took place on the 8th of June, 1809. He was buried on his farm at New-Rochelle; but, some years after-ward, the notorious Cobbett caused his bones to be dug up and conveyed to England-an act which inspired universal disgust.

Paine was undoubtedly one of the ablest writers of the English language that ever addressed the masses. He wrote slowly but with rare vigor and clearness. His great fault was coarseness, which often degenerated into downright scurrility. His theological writings often shocked and repelled by their irreverence and blasphemy those whom he aimed to convince. His political essays are less faulty, and have exerted a wide influence. Though his writings are less widely d than formerly, and are visibly losing their hold of the public mind, he has still many ardent armirers. and his birthday is celebrated as a festival on the shores of every ocean and in many quarters of the

The following letter, written in his 42d year, to lady newly married, is handed to us as hitherto unpublished. It may serve as a specimen of his felicity of style, and also, we regret to say, of his lack of mental integrity. Though Paine had been twice married long ere this letter was written, had lost his first wife by death, and had lived three years with his second (from whom he separated by consent), he writes as a back-elor. He never married afterward, but brought away from Paris, on taking final leave of Europe, the wife of a French bookseller, who, with her two children, lived with him thereafter. We believe his property was

mainly bequeathed to them:

Letter from Thomas Paine. London, Jan. 6, 1789. I sincerely thank you for your very friendly and wel

come letter. I was in the country when it arrived, and did not receive it soon enough to answer it by the return of the vessel. I very affectionately congratureturn of the vessel. I very affectionately congratu-late Mr. and Mrs. F. on their happy marriage, and every branch of the families ailied by the connection, and I request my fair correspondent to present me to her partner, and to say for me that he has obtained one of the highest prizes in the wheel. Beside the pleasure your letter gives me to hear you are all happy and well, it relieves me from a sen-sation not easy to be dismissed; and, if you will ex-cuse a few dull thoughts for obtruding themselves into a congratulatory letter. I will tell you what it is.

cuse a few dull thoughts for obtruding themselves into a congratulatory letter, I will tell you what it is. When I see my femals friends drop off by matrimony, I am sensible of something that affects me like a loss. In spite of all the appearances of joy, I cannot help mixing the compilinent of regret with that of congratulation. It appears as if I had outlived or lost a friend. It seems to me as if the original was no more and that which she is changed to forsakes the circle and forgets the scene of former society. Felicities and cares superior to those she formerly cared for present to her a new landscape of life, that excludes the little friendships of the past. It is not every lady's mind that is sufficiently capacious to preven those greater objects from crowding out the less, of that can space a thought to former friendship, after she has given her hand and heart to the man that loves her. But the sentiment your letter contains has prevented those dull ideas from mingling with the she has given her hand and heart to the man that loves her. But the sentiment your letter contains hat prevented those dull ideas from mingling with the congratulations I present to you, and it is so congental with the enlarged opinion I have always formed of you that at the time I read it with pleasure I read it with pride, because it convinces me that I have some judgment in that most difficult science, a lady's mind. Most sincerely do I wish you all the good that Heaven can bless you with, and as you have in your family an can bless you with, and as you have in your family an example of domestic happiness you are already in the knowledge of obtaining it. That no condition we can enjoy is an exemption from care—that some shade will mingle itself with the brightest sunshine of life that even our affections may become the instrument of our sorrows—that the sweet felicities of Home de of our sorrows—that the sweet felicities of Home de-pend on good temper as well as on good sense—and that there is always something to forgive even in the nearest and dearest of our friends—are truths, which, though too obvious to be told, ought never to be for-gotten; and I know you will not esteem my friendship the less for impressing them upon you. Though I ap-pear a sort of wanderer, the married state has not a sincerer friend than I am. It is the bashor of human life, and is, with respect to the things of this world, what the next world is to this. It is a home—and that one word conveys more than any other world can exone word conveys more than any other word can ex-press. For a few years, one may glide along the tide of youthful, single life, and be wonderfully delighted; but it is a tide that flows but once, and, what is worse, it cobe faster than it flows, and leaves many a hap-

less voyager aground. I am one that has experienced the fate I am describing.

THOMAS PAINE. THOMAS PAINE.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL'S ESCAPE .- The Rev. Dr. Duff, in his last letter from India, mentions the following remarkable escape of Sir Colin Campbell on his

ing remarkable escape of Sir Colin Campbell on his march to the relief of Lucknow:

"Sr Colin and his staff, unaccompanied by any escort, in the neighborhood of the River Saone, came suddenly on two companies of the mutinied 32d, who had recently killed their own officers. They were then in the act of crossing the trunk read, with four-teen elephants, two guns, and a small body of sowars, or irregular native cavairy. Sir Coline garry, or traveling carriage, was ahead of all the others; and although the native coachnan warned him of the although the native coachman warned him of the danger, he still pushed on till an aid-de-camp di-rected his attention to the mutineers crossing the road at a distance of not more than 500 yards. At first the chief would not go back, but got on the top of his garry with a glass; and only when he saw some cavalry sent to cut off his retreat did he tkink it proper to stop. Had they been a few hundred yards further on, the whole party must have been cut off to a man, since, having no escort, the edds opposed to them was so tremendous as to reader effectual resistance impossible. As it was, their coming up, with such apparent boldness, so very near to the rebels, evidently soon impressed the latter with the conviction that Sir Colin and his party formed only the advanced guard of an avenging column; and so, after a little hesitation, they made off as fast as they could, elephants, guns and all, while Sir Colin and his staff instantly turned back and retraced their steps for at a distance of not more than 500 vards. At first the could, elephants, guns and all, while Sir confided staff instantiv turned back and retraced their steps for ten miles, till they came up with a bullock-train party of soldiers. What a narrow secape! What a providential interposition! A few minutes sconer, and the brave Sir Colin, with his whole staff, would have been

An amusing letter, signed H. C. J. H., in The Philadelphia Inquirer, dated Simoda, Sept. 12, 1857.

says:
"The San Jacinto left here on the 3d of September the Dutch steam frigate Medust "The San Jacinto left here on the 3d of September last. In October, the Dutch steam frigate Medusa and the General Pierce visited this port. A typhoon also occurred about the same time, which handled us rather roughly, shook the old temple about our ears, three the whole Gorosko down, smashed all the lacker ware, and covered the beach between Simoda and Katirakhi with inuka of which not a simola one in the ware, and covered the beach between Simoda and Kakizaki with junks, of which not a single one in the harbor secaped. In Nevember, we had the Russian corvette Olivouza here.

"In April, we get out of lard; in May, got out of shoes; in June, out of butter; in July, out of bread, oil and morey, and in August, out of patience.

"At last a vessel hove in sight from the signal station. Like a hunted deer, I bounded over mountain

tion. Like a hunted deer, I bounded over mountain and dale, through jungle and pasture-ground, to get a view of the darling ship that was going to link me again to civilization; and, would you believe it, instead of entering the harbor, she disappeared—she left us. It was a whaler looking for whales. Why did she not look for Consuls-General and isolated Socretaries? I never cared about whalers; but now I not only dislike them, but I detest them; and if the man in the crow's nest could have seen me foaming with wrath and swearing venceance to all mankind in with wrath and swearing vengeance to all mankind in general, and to whalers in particular, he certainly

would have exclaimed, 'There she blows.'

"On the third of this month we got a package of letters and newspapers, the first we have received since leaving America in 1855. They were brought by the United States frigate Portsmouth, by which this reply was sent, and which left Simoda Sept. 12."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

the chair.
The Celebration of Washington's Birthday.-A

resolution came from the Councilmen to appropriate \$2,000 for the celebration of Washington's birthday.

Ald, Boole moved to add \$500 for a new transparency for the front of the City Hall. Carried.

Ald. Reade moved to add \$250 for the New-York Volunteers, to be applied to their sick and destitute.

Carried.

Ald. Tucken asked how the Board intended t and, It can't asked how the Board intended as spend the whole of the appropriation. He did not see the use of so large an appropriation. If it was to defray the expense of a supper for a select few, he was opposed to it. Better give it for some charitable use, when thousands in the city were suffering for bread. There was no necessity for a display. As Americans, we could show our patriotism without such as appropriation.

Americans, we could show our patriotism without such an appropriation.

Ald. McSerbox said it was proposed by some of the members last year to apprepriate this money to be expended in the different charitable societies, but after the banner expense and other expenses, there would be little left. He was also opposed to suppers, and hoped the money would go to some other purpose.

Ald. ADAMS said he was one of the Committee last year, and saw enough of the supper system. He hoped there would be no more dranken sprees at the city's expense, and that all of the money not required for the military and other necessary expenses would go to the charitable institutions.

Ald. Reads spoke against suppers, and hoped the members, like himself, would prefer having supper at the city.

Ald: GREGORY offered a resolution to distribute the money among the different charitable societies.
Ald. McSerpon urged that the names of the Socie-

ties be here specified.

Ald. Stephens, while in favor of having a celebra tion, hoped that the amendments lay on the table until the Special Committee could report, specifying the Societies to which the money should best be given.

Societies to which the money should best be given.

Motion to lay the amendments on the table. Carried.

Ald. Bookk moved that the resolution be postponed till next meeting. Carried.

The Russ Parement.—Ald. Bookk offered a premible in relation to the Committee having under consideration the feasibility of breaking or grooving the Russ pavement:

Whereas, Certain parties have proceeded to groove a portion of Broadway, under direction of the Croton Department, without authority from the Common Council.

If hereas, Certain parties have proceeded to recover sportion or broadway, under circetton of the Croton Department, without atherity from the Common Council, Resolved, That the President of the Croton Aqueduct Department be requested to report by what authority the said work is esting done, and the expense attending the same. Adopted.

The Street Department—More Frauds.—Another

communication was received from D. D. Conove Street Commissioner, showing up more frauds in the street Department.

Ald. Gracord did not want to bear it read, but noved that it lie on the table.

Ald. Owers hoped the paper would be printed.

Motion to lay on the table lost.

The paper was then read, and ordered printed in the

STREET DEPARTMENT, STREET COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
STREET DEPARTMENT, STREET COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
NEW-YORK, Jan. 23, 1853.

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of New-York
The undersigned respectfully reports to your honorable body that since the publication of his report made on the 28th inst., is has learned indirectly from Edward Boy's (the surveyor who had charge of the work "setting curb, and quiter, and flagging, four feet wide sidewarks in Third avenue, between Sixty first and "Eighty sixth streets," done under contract by Charles Devien, as set forth in case No. 6 of said report) that the Surveyor's return of work done as therein specified, viz.: 4,205 cable yards earth extensived; 357 cubic yards rock exavated; 5,59 cubic yards earth effiling. Now, as the original street in the surveyor's return annexed to and accompanying the assessment lists in this case, and being one of the vouchers upon which the said sasessment and apportionment was made, contains the quantities first above specified, and as reported by the undersigned, it would be inferred that an alteration was made in the Surveyor's return, by converting the 1,205 cubic yards of earth exavation into 4,205 cubic yards, by making the figure I into 4, and the 50 cubic yards by prefixing the figure 5 to the 50; and the 500 cubic yards of parts filling into 3,500 cubic yards, by prefixing the figure 3 to the 500. And upon impretion of the original Surveyor's return, and in precisely the same manner indicated above, are cisarly manifest. STREET DEPARTMENT, STREET COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

of.
Again, by reference to the said case (6) cited in said report Again, by reference to the said case (6) cited in said report of the undersigned, if appears that the Street Commissioner wrong-fully certified that all three of these items of work were embraced in the contract, and at the following prices, vis.: Earth excavation at \$4.50 per cubic yard; earth filling at 43 cents per cubic yard. Therefore, uside from the fact that these three items of work were, in any view of the case, illegally charged, not being in the contract, the fraudulent alterations of the amounts of work returned by the Surveyor increases the assessment upon the property owners \$3.300, as follows, viz.

\$3.000 yards earth enawarded at 45 cents.

\$4.350

\$5.000 yards earth filling at 45 cents.

\$5.300 yards are the weavarded at \$2.50

\$5.000 yards earth filling at 45 cents.

Total.

Where, when and by whom these alterations were made is not within the knowledge of the undersigned to say; but the transactions would seem to attach either to the Street Department, the contractor, or the Assessors. The only thing certain in regard to the transaction is, that the amount was paid to Charles Devlin, the contractor, by the Controller—ir, on the 18th day of February and the 18th day of March, 1857—and the same has been apportioned and assessed against the property-owners, which assessment is now in process of collection. Respectfully submitted.

D. CONOVER, Street Commissioner.

The Layestingation into City Accounts.—Ald Owners.

mbuitted,

D. D. CONOVER, Street Commissioner.

The Investigation into City Accounts.—Ald. Owens—Resolutions to resume the investigations into the accounts of the Einance Department and other accounts, and appropriating \$5,000 for clerical aid, came up and were adopted.

Dockmaster.—The special order of the evening, the

Dockmaster.—The special order of the evening, the ordinance to appoint dockmasters, came up.

Ald. Tecken opposed it on the ground that the new Police law repealed this office. The dockmasters were, under the old law, taken from the police force, but now they were provided for under a State law, and the city had no authority left in the matter. He had learned that the office of dockmaster would be a sinecure any way, and the proposition to give them a salary[of \$500 was quite superfluous. There was no necessity for creating an office of that kind at the ex-

peuse of the city. The piers were all either owned or occupied. This proposition of dockmasters was a batching out of a lot of political workers to pre, upon comenerce. There was nothing for them to do for the bet-eft of the city, but they would impose upon commerce. The Harbor Masters new did all the dulies formerly assigned to Dock Masters. He had lad several persons to see him, parties who wanted to be appointed but they might as well expect a streak of lighning to put them in office as him. He

wanted to be appointed, but they might as well expect a streak of lightning to put them is office as him. He was satisfied, however, that if the ordinance was passed, 42 Dock Masters would be appointed and 42 law suits against the city for salaries. The whole ordinance was libral, yet it would give the city trouble.

Aid, Booth was surprised to find that the scentleman from the Vth District could not see that the city had the power to appoint Dock Masters to protect the property of the city along the wharves. Such officers were highly necessary, for the Harbor Masters duties were in the harbor, and not on the docks. There was one case where into was kinded contrary to rate, in the absence of Dock Masters, and the pier had sustained damages in consequence.

the absence of Dock Masters, and the pier had sustained damages in consequence.

Ald, Davis, who made a minority report against the appointment of Dock Masters, raid he had well weighed the master, and had found that no necessity existed for such action as the ordinance of the majority proposed. He had examined the laws, and found that no authority existed to warrent the appointment of Dock Masters. They would conflict with the Harbor Masters, whose duties applied to docks, for they had, by section 3 of the law, authority to regulate the vessels at the wharves as well as in the river. These duties were identical to those proposed to be assigned to Dock Masters, consequently the appointment of the latter would be an unnecessary expense to the city.

Ald. Streets spoke in favor of having the Dock Musters. He was surprised to hear from Ald. Davis that the City had not the power to appoint them. He knew better; the Montgomery Charter gave the City every such power. This was an ancient city, and has its rights noder that charter independent of State legislation; and he stood here as the champion of the City's chartered rights. This was not merely the appointment of 4? Dock Masters, but a question of principal. He hoped the Common Council would no more look to Albany for power, but that they would freely exercise their rights. nights.

Ald. Crascy also contended that the city had many

cise their rights.

Aid. Crancy also contended that the city had many rights under the Dougan and Montgomery Charter which the Legislature had never attempted to take away, and it would be well to begin at the bottom and go up. These charters gave the city power and control over the wharves, piers and slips, and the water privileges to low-water mark, Brooklyn. The Metropolitan Police bill, he argued, did not repeal the right of the city to have Dock Masters. He hoped the Common Council would stand by the rights of the city under these old charters, and act independently.

Ald. Turker said he was as jealous as any other member of Legislative interference with the city, but he looked upon the Dock Master law as repealed, and the Common Council must conform to the new law. The ordinance would only create more litigation. Forty-t so suits were certain, and as was shown by the \$10,000 in the tax levy, the Mayor's expenses in batting the new laws, the city had suffered quite enough from such lawsuits. The ordinance should at least be referred to the Counsel to the Corporation for an opinion.

Ald. Anams said this ordinance was not to create Dock Masters for sake of office. He heard men in the Mayor's Office complaining that there were not the Mayor's Office complaining that there were not such officers, and there was certainly great necessity for them. There was no occasion to discuss the law on the subject; common sense showed that Dock Masters were required, and that the city had the right to appoint them over its own docks and slips. As for the Harbor Masters they were not fit for the duties of their office, and took no pains to perform what the law required of them. The Mayor, he had no doubt, would see that proper Dock Masters would be chosen. After other debate, Ald. TUCKER moved to refer to the counsel for an opinion. Lost.

The office was then put and adopted by 10 to 7.

The Tax Levy came up, and was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Post-Office Site.—The Chair appointed Ald. McSpedos, Murray and Tucker a Special Committee to resume this subject.

Patitions Referred.—Of L. W. Pease of the Five-Points' Mission for a donation for agricultural pur-

Politions Referred,—Of L. W. Pease of the Five-points' Mission for a donation for agricultural pur-poses on the farm at Eastchester. Of sundry persons to have a wing of the City Hall built in Madison square. For a sewer in East Twenty-fourth street, between Fourth and Lexington avenues. Of sundry persons for correction of tax.

The Woman's Hospital.—The report in favor of granting the block of ground bounded by Forty-Ninth and Fiftiethstreet and Lexington and Fourth avenues, as a site for the State Woman's Hospital, was taken up and adopted.

up and adopted.

The Board adjourned to Monday, Feb. 1.

PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW-YORK. The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Association was held on Thursday, at 31 o'clock, at their office, No. 15 Centre

Present, John H. Griscom, M. D., Chairman; Israel Russell, Richard Reed, Stephen Cutter, Henry P. Marshall, and James C. Holden.

The munutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report acknowledged the receipt of the following contributions during the month:

Messrs, Rucknagel & Schwab.

city prisons had been visited, and a large num-

Ane city prisons had been visited, and a large nur ber of their immates seen. The most hopeful wer carefully selected and appropriately aided, as follows Complaints thoroughly examined.

Abandoned on their advice, as trivolous, accommendation.

Bersons discharged from custody on their recommendation.

Discharged persons supplied more or less with clothing.

From the diary of discharged convicts it is very evident this Association has been instrumental in preventing a repetition of crime, by placing those who

had prepared to reform away from the temptations in-cident to city life. Many of this number have ceased to do evil, and are now doing well, following industrial To do vyl, and are now doing works.

A lamentable fact on their record seems worthy of mention. Some few persons, who had servedout a term of punishment in Sing Sing prison and been discharged, have been recently rearrested on charge of crime.

have been recently rearrested on charge of crime. Some of these in all probability would not have been found in such circumstances had this philanthropic institution possessed the necessary means to send then away from the corrupting influences of their old asso

We ask, in an economical point of view, would prove advantageous to both the City and the State them to make such an appropriation to the New-Yo Prison Association as to enable them more fully them to make such an appropriation to the New-1048 Prison Association as to enable them more fully to develop their benevolent designs in procuring employment for discharged convicts away in the country? Increased patronage and support are earnestly solicited in behalf of this necessary association. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by Henry A. Oakley, esq., No. 66 Wall street, or by the Agent, Abraham Beal, No. 15 Centre street.

RUSS PAVEMENT IN BROADWAY.

RUSS PAVEMENT IN BROADWAY.

The Committee on streets of the Board of Aldermen, to whom was referred the subject of improving the Russ pavement in Broadway, so as to prevent the slipping of horses upon it, held their second meeting yesterday in the City Library, for the purpose of hearing suggestions, and receiving plans and propositions for obviating the evil complained of.

Mr. Barkley, who presented a plan at the previous meeting for heyeling one side and one end of each

meeting for beveling one side and one end of each stone, to the depth and width of 11 inches, again at-tended and set forth that the expense of grooving the pavement upon his plan would not exceed 50 cents per Mr. J. W. Cochhan presented a plan for drillic

Mr. J. W. COCHIAN presented a plan for druing holes by steam, two inches in diameter and four inches deep, at such distances apart as would give 100 holes to the square yard. These holes Mr. Cochran proposed to fill up with iron-siftings or sand. He likewise suggested an idea of filling up the cavities with iron bolts or spikes, which he contended would work their two days there with the characteristic work. n through the stone as the stone itself were avel over it. The plan of filling the holes way down through the stone as the stone itself were by the travel over it. The plan of filling the holes with sand, however, was most strennously urged to the attention of the Committee, which Mr. C. offered to carry out for \$2 per square yard; and further, he was prepared to give bonds to keep the pavement in good order for fifty years to come for 5 per cent upon the cost of fixing it as proposed, and which would be done without disturbing the pavement.

Mr. AUGUST TURNER also proposed to drill holes in the blocks of granite as they now lie, about two inches in diameter but only one inch deep.

Mr. Horace Andrews contended that the cheapest plan in the end would be found in substituting iron pavement similar to that in front of the Post-Office for the Russ pavement, and thought before the entire job was put under contract, some of the plans deemed most feasible ought to be tried to a limited extens.

Ald. Boole submitted a plan left with him by a Mr. Bloodgood, which was to take up every third block of stone and substitute one of iron, which should afford a sure foothold for the horses.

Mr. Kidner, who, at the last meeting, proposed to take up the Russ pavement, split the blocks and relay them is their diminished size, again appeared be-

take up the Russ pavement, split the blocks and re-take up the Russ pavement, split the blocks and re-lay them is their diminished size, again appeared be-gore the Committee with a model of his plan, which he

had somewhat modified, so as to avoid the usee with had somewhat modified, so as to avoid the user sity of splitting every block, and consequently occasion less shate. His present plan is to use a portion of the large stones in forming the guitters, and arrange others as on a manner that the wheels of the vehicles keeping in line up and down the street, could run upon them, putting down the split stones in the intermediate spaces. This plan would render it necessary for the entire pavement, or nearly so, to be taken up and re-

laid.

Mr. J. K. FISHER suggested the propriety of the Committee deferring all action in the matter, on the ground that steam carriages would soon supersede the use of all other vehicles in Broadway, when the smoother the pavement the better it would be. Omnibuses and private carriages, he contended, would all

y steam.
tee, however, preferred to take into be propoled by steam.

The Committee, however, preferred to take into consideration the present wants of the public, by affording protection to the poor horses, believing that, when steam shall have completely taken the place of horseflesh in Broadway, it will be sufficiently early to

norseness in Boards suggestions.

The committee then announced that they would meet again for the third and last time on Tuesday next at 2 p. m., to receive any further suggestions, plans and propositions that may be presented for carrying into effect the object they have in view.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribane.

Sin: Will you oblige me by saying is your paper that, in the month of September, October and November lest, certificates were presented to the Controller of this city, on various contracts of mine, amounting to some \$30,000 or \$40,000, and ou these I received in November \$12,800. On this state of facts the Controller has thought it proper to make an affidavit charging me with fraud and conspiring with his clerk, Mr. Smith, in its commission.

Why my contract in Forty-ninth street, amounting to only \$1,000 was charged with \$12,800, I do not know. The city owes me a large balance now.

If any clerk in the Controller's office has charged the amount I received to a contract which he ought not, how am I to be made responsible for it?

All I ask, Sir, is that the public will suspend their judgment until a full examination is had, as I am prepared to meet any that may be instituted.

Yourstrily,

New York, Jan. 29, 1858.

New York, Jan. 28, 1858.

FIRES.

Yesterday morning, about 5 o'clock, a fire was discovered in the clothing establishment of E. C. Brooks, No. 5 Park place, in the basement of the Broadway Bank building. The clerk who sleeps in the store made the discovery and raised an alarm, which was promptly responded to by the firemen. The flames were extinguished before much damage was done. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the care-lessness of some person throwing matches on the floor.

CITY ITEMS.

THE WEATHER. -Surely, says the reader, the city reader, I know all about the weather. Granted; s do we: but, with the exception of our brief telegrams we don't know much about it in any other place, and those who live in other places know just as much of the state of things here, as we do of things there. So we say of the weather here-on Wednesday it was more like a cool Summer day than like midwinter. It was clear, and so warm that fires were not necessary. and people sat reading or working in rooms with open windows. On Thursday the atmosphere was a little more chilly, and the sky overcast, with an appearance of snow in the morning, of rain toward noon, and an uncertainty later in the day. Still it is not Winter; it might do for March, after all the frest was out of the ground, ice all melted, and snow nowhere; for such is the state of things here on the 28th of January. Farmers are plowing, or should be; though we fancy a good many of them are waiting for sledding. As yet we have had none-in fact we have had no Winter.

It is asserted that Mr. Perit has resigned his place as Police Commissioner, and that a disagreement with two Republican members was the cause.

We learn that Mr. John J. Palmer, the old and highly-esteemed President of the Merchants' Bank, is ill with paralysis. His symptoms were somewhat more favorable yesterday. Mr. John Oothout, President of the Bank of New-York, is also dangerously ill.

OBSUBILATED THEATRICALS,-During the performance of "The Vicar of Wakefield," last evening at Wallack's Theater, all the gas in the house, save a flickering glimmer in one corner, suddenly went out. "Olivia" and "Sophia," being country-bred girls, and accustomed, doubtless, to transact many of their little affairs by moonlight, did not seem very much put out by the inconstant behavior of the fickle city luminaries, but proceeded in their parts without being at all disconcerted. The gas was finally brought back to a sense of duty, and the house was once more duly calightened.

PECKING THE RUSS PAVEMENT .- On Wednesday and vesterday, Mr. John P. Flender, Water Purvey to the Croton Aqueduct Board, was engaged with a dozen workmen, on Broadway, between Tenth and Eleventh streets,, in front of Grace Church, chiseling the Russ pavement, as an experiment, to know if it was possible to groove the entire length of Broadway or not, and if so, whether the Croton Aquedact Department had not better take hold of the themselves as a matter of economy. Mr. Flender in formed our reporter that he could bevel down the sean's of the pavement to the depth of two inches for eighty cents per square yard, and was apparently doing the work with facility, and in a proper manner. One side of the block was nearly done last night. This section of the Russ pavement has already been grooved laterally; he was cutting it transversely, always keeping to the the seams, or where one block of granite joined the other. On Wednesday morning, Mr. F. ut dertook to drill holes in the pavement, to try and solit the blocks into quarters, and did divide several into two and four pieces, but he concluded that this would be a tedious and inefficient operation, and abandoned it. He said the plan of grooving by machinery would do if not for the difficulty of following the seams of the points, which run irregular. The steam-drill would require to be continually taken from the pavement and re-set to meet the joints.

LICENSING PUBLIC VEHICLES .- The more rigid enforcement of the ordinances concerning public vehicles occupies nearly the entire time of the Mayor's Marshal and his assistant. During the past week 90 licenses were granted and 31 fines collected. For these licenses, \$157 25 were paid, and for the fines \$57, making a total of \$214 25. The sums collected from the same sources and paid into the City Treasury for the two weeks previous amounted to over \$500.

SHYSTERS AT THE POLICE COURTS .- A most deermined effort is now on foot to break up the bands of small lawyers, known as shysters or Tombs skinners, who are daily in the habit of lounging about the vestibules of the various Police Courts for the purpose of intercepting ignorant people going to the Courts to obtain warrants or make complaints. Scarcely a day passes but that some dozen or more persons having business at the Courts are intercepted by the shysteri and swindled in the most outrageous manner. Some of the more favored of these characters gain access to the prisons, and obtain money, watches, jewelry and other property from the prisoners, under pretense of procuring their release. They assert that they have great influence with the magistrates and judges, and so work upon the minds of the prisoners, who are, of course, desirous of regaining their liberty, that they obtain very valuable property. The unfortunate prisoner hears no more from his pretended connsel, and is obliged to employ some one else to advocate his cause. The tricks and devices resorted to by the shysters or skinners are almost beyond belief. Their plans of operation are too numerous for description. They sight their game afar off, and pounce upon it the moment it comes within reach.

It not unfrequently happens that persons visiting the Courts for the purpose of obtaining warrants are charged \$5 by the shyster who promises to use his influence with the magistrate. The shyster, having obbed the \$5, ushers the party into the Court, and

eays, "Judge, here is a man, or woman," as the case may be, "who desires to obtain a warrant against such a desch a one." The magistrate, without paying attection to the shyster, tasks the complaining party a number of questions, and uses his discretion about en-tertaining the complaint. Providing the complaint is them talk, one would think they had all the magutrates under their control, and had only to nod or wave their hands to obtain such decision as they chose. It would be a difficult matter to find their locale; they carry their offices in their bats, and at any time are able to produce a huge bundle of papers, for

purpose of making an impression. Not long ago the Superintendent of Police detailed a number of men at the Courts for the purpose of protecting persons having business. Yesterday morning Officer Gardner, attached to the Lower Police Court, arrested a man calling himself Lowe, charging him with intercepting persons having business at the Courts The following affidavit was made against Lowe:

The following affidavit was made against Lowe:
Josepi A. Gordner, of the First District Police Court, being
duly sworn deposes and says that John Lowe, now here, is daily
in the habit of intercepting people in the vestibule of the Police
Court, that many persons are aimost hourly stopped by said
Lowe and questioned as to the nature of their business is the
Police Court. Beponent further says, he has received orders
from Justice Weisa not to allow men to hang about the Court and
interfere with those who wish to see the madetrales on business;
that said howe conducts himself in a disorderly manner in said
vestibule, and threatens to make charges against deponent for
thus carrying out the orders of waid Justice. Beponent therefore
prays that said Lowe may be dealt with as the law directs.

The accused was taken before the magistrate, who
conve him a severe reprimand, and then sent him about

gave him a severe reprimand, and then sent him about is business. The magistrate charged Love that if a similar complaint was made against him a second time he should send him to the Penitentiary.

Yesterday morning, as one of the New-Haven trains

was about going out, Patrick Higgins, the brakeman, who was at his post, discovered a man in the act of picking the pecket of an old gentleman scated at the end of the car. Higgins seized the fellow, and dragging him from the car, gave him into the custody of Officer Barker. The man gave his name as John Russell. He was taken to the Station-House and searched. when a pocket-book containing \$51 90, in bills and change, and a number of postage stamps, was found in his possession. Russell claimed the pocket-book as his property, and it was returned to him. The officer on duty at the Station-House sent the prisoner before Justice Quackenbush, at the Jefferson-Market Police Court. The magistrate was not in at the time, and he prisoner sought counsel. Upon the arrival of Jusice Quackenbush, the accused was arraigned before him, and complaint made by the officer and brakeman. The magistrate asked for the supposed stolen property, and was handed the pocket-book, with some small change in it and a few postage stamps. The prisoner said be had paid a lawyer \$50 to defend him. The lawyer was sent for and compelled to disgorge the money he had so received, as the magistrate believed it to be stolen property. The lawyer handed over the money, with a heavy heart and a deep sigh, and at the same time protested against the proceeding, denying the right of the Justice to take the money from him in so summary a manner. The pocket-book and its contents, restored as above, was sent to Mr. Warren, Property Clerk, to be advertised. Russell was sent to prison for examination.

SLANDER-HER TRIAL AND ACQUITTAL. - Some three months ago a Mrs. Natty Wood of Port Jervis. Orange County, a woman having a husband and family, goaded to desperation by a man named Jonathan Eldridge, who boasted that he was her paramour, publicly shot him with a pistol, the bullet knocking out some of the fellow's teeth and inflicting a severe wound. Mrs. Wood was indicted for an assault with intent to kill, and tried at the Orange County Court last week. The Jury, after an hour s absence, returned with a verdict of acquittal, which was received with great applause by the audience. THE LOTTERY POLICY DEALERS.-There is a panic

among the lottery policy dealers, who until the past few days have been permitted to flourish almost undisturbed, and increase in numbers to more than two thousand. The "criminal squad" of Sergeaut Berney at the Mayor's Office have been making war upon them, and have already arrested about a dozen of their principal men, who have been held for trial in sums varying from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Among those arrested yesterday were Thomas Bell of No. 298 First avenue and Valburg Moos of No. 186 East Seventeenth street. They were taken before the Mayor, who ordered them to find bail to answer. The work is to be continued, and a knowledge of this fact has esused a general closing up of those little unmistakable "exchange offices" with green shades, which the prac-ticed eye can easily detect all over the city, especially in by-places and in the poorer localities. This policy business, though decidedly the meanest kind of gammen of political influence, who have acquired wealth thereby. The business should have been broken up long ago, and it is to be hoped that the effort now making to this end will be continued with more vigor and success than have previous attempts in the same

COMPLAINS OF HIS WIFE .- Yesterday aftertoon an Irishman with full red face, slightly curly hair, small whiskers under his chin, and looking as if he owed the barber, appeared before Justice Quackenbush at the Jefferson Market Police Court and complained that his wife was in the constant habit of getting drunk and acting in such a manner that the "devil himself couldn't live wid 'er.' Outside of the rail stood a full-face, bold-looking Irish woman with the skirt of her dress

turned over her head.

Justice (addressing himself to the woman)—What
de you mean by acting in this manner?

Woman-Are ye askin to me? Justice-Yes: I am speaking to you.

Woman—And what are ye sayin?

Justice—What do you mean by getting drunk and disturbing your husband, and raising Old Harry with your neighbors?

Woman—Sure an it ain't true; me man gits in a

man-Sure an' it ain't true; me man gits woman—Sure an it ain t true; me mangine in passion and thin I git a bit mad meself. I own to my foolishness, Judge, and I'li tell you the truth. If I was goin before almighty God, Judge, I would own that I was a bit foolish this mornio', but I haven't drank any for six months before. This mornio' I tuck a wee dhrap, and I was foolish—I admit I was foolish.

Husband—Yis, Judge, she goes off so I can't do nother with her.

nothin wid her.

Woman (interrupting bim and speaking in a pleasant tone—Arrah now, how can you say se?

Husband—She threatens to pizen me, and stab me, and I am afraid on me life. She makes me lie on the

Woman (pleasantly)—Arrah, don't spake so. I own I was a little bit foolish.

Justice (to the officer who made the arrest)—Do you know anything about this woman—was she drunk when you arrested her?

Officer—She was intoxicated and disorderly, and

When you arrested her?

Officer—She was intoxicated and disorderly, and tried to get hold of a knife to stab me.

Justice—That will do: I must lock you up for tea days, and during that time you'll have time for reflection.

flection.

Woman (to the Judge)—Thank you Judge. (To the husband)—Arrah, ye brute that ye are, to lock up yer poor wife—ye divil ye. I'll pay you off whin I git out.

THE LATE MURDEROUS ATTACK ON OFFICER POIL-

LON.—On Sunday night, the 20th uit., as Officer Poil-lon of the Fourth Precinct Police was returning from Brooklyn, he attempted to agest two ruffians who were beating an inoffensive man in Broadway, near Merris street. Upon the approach of the officer the ruffians fied, but were pursued by him into Greenwich street and toward the Battery. Suddenly the fellows faced about, and, springing upon the officer, beat him in a terrible manner, inflicting serious injuries. Michael Quigley, one of the reputed assailants, imme distely afterward fled the city and State, and remained absent until Monday last, when he ventured back to his old hauuts in the First Ward. Special Policeman Cropin of the Thirteenth Precinct, hearing that Quigley was in town, obtained permission to hunt up the ffender, and, after a diligent search, succeeded in finding and arresting the accused at a low den in the lower part of the city. Quigley was committed to the Tombs. Yesterday morning Officer Poillon appeared before Justice Welsh and made affidavit setting forth

ti at at the time above mentioned he was assaulted by Quight and a follow called " Mose," who struck him on the head with a club, stabbed him in the face with some shirp instrument, and terminated their act of refinated by felling him senseless to the pavement where they left him. Officer Poillon was soon after entertained, the shyster sticks close by his clients and found in this condition and taken to the Hospital, prates about his influence with the Judge. To hear where he was confined for several weeks, and is the present under the care of a physician. The magistrate committed Quigley to prison to await an examination. The accused denies the charge. He is a native of Ire-land, twenty-three years of age, a boatman by occupation, and lives in Greenwich street. "Mose," alleged accomplice of Quigley, is still at large.

REAL ESTATE.-The following sales of roal estate were made yesterday, at the Merchants' Exchange, by

Were made yesterday, at the Merchants' Exchange, by Adrian H. Muller:
4 droy brick house and let No. 342 4th av. 19.5x75.
5 droy brick house and let No. 342 4th av. 19.5x75.
5 droy brick house and let No. 342 4th av. 19.5x75.
5 droy brick house and let No. 57 and 59 East 32d-4;
40.4x34 9 (regular).
4 droy brich house and let No. 45; 3d-av. 19.6x35
2 droy frame house and let No. 304 47th et. 15. 4x100x5.
2 droy frame house and let No. 304 47th et. 15. 4x100x5.
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2 droy frame house and let No. 304 47th et. PICKPOCKETS .- John Russell was arrested at the New-Haven cars this morning for picking pockets.

and fro in the cars all of the time. Fifty dollars in good money was found on him. Rursell was held for Mone Bungtans,-Yesterday morning John Olivet, a native of Belgium, 19 years of age, was apprehended, charged with having, on last Christmas eve, bur-24 Broad street, and stolen therefrom a number of turkeys. Olivet was committed to prison by Justice

He is said to be one of a company of four traveling to

to the State Prison.

The factory of Levi Cohen, in Thirty-figh street, near the Eighth avenue, was burglariously entered on Saturday night and robbed of \$75 worth of property. Charles A. Keene was arrested and committed for ea-

Welsh. Michael Sullivan, an accomplice, was appre-

hended soon after the robbery, and has since been seed

MR. CHANFRAU'S BENEFIT.-TO-NIGHT this DIR. CHANTRAL S DENEFIT.—TO-NIGHT that distinguished actor takes his Benefit at PURDY'S NATIONAL THEATER, and autounces a Programme of Entertainments mitthful and attractive, himself appearing in three pieces—wit, and the Drams of Mose is California; and, edded to those will be given the new Drams of The Provess Parant—Mr. J. H. Allen, Mr. E. L. Fox, Mrs. H. F. Nichole, Miss Hamasway, Miss Fanny Herring, Miss Julis Daly and all the company appearing.

Go AND SEE IT .- You must go and see that new American Drama, now creating such a sensation at a Nussus, "The Pioneer Patriot, or, The Maid of the Puth," from Cobb's great Ledger story, which fills the Museus surpasses all precedent in its attraction. You will sugh her over its comic scenes and weep over its touching ones. Ge

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

BROOKLYN MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. The Rev. E. H. Chapin will lecture (for the benefit of the library fund in the Atheneum, on Monday evening, Feb. 1. Subject-"Christopher Columbus.

AN OFFICER ASSAULTED BY A WOMAN,-Yesterday atternoon Constable Horton proceeded to the inger-beer salcon of Caspar Ulrich, in Court street, to serve an attachment. Not finding the man at home, he served the paper on his wife, who, as soon as ah ascertained the nature of its contents, became furious, and seizing a batch of dough which she was kneeding, bespattered him all over, and fluished up by sprinkling him plentifully with flour. The constable took his doparture, and lodging a complaint against the woman for resisting an officer in the discharge of his duty, she was subsequently arrested, and held to ball by Justice Voorbies to answer the charge.

STABBING .- The police of the Second Precinct were informed on Wednesday night that Peter McGovern had been stabbed in the house No. 37 Little street. They found that a anife had penetrated his left side, and that the wound was severe, but not dangerous. It appears he got inte an affray with a companion, but refused to tell the cause, or his name, and, in fact would give the officers no satisfaction whatever. effects were, therefore, made to find the assailant.

FRIONIOUS ASSAULT. - A German named Hank Engle came to the Ninth Precinct Station-House on Wednesday evening, and presented a bruised appear-ance about the head. He preferred a charge of assault and battery against George Luche, a clerk in a grocery, on the corner of Pacific street and Vand evenue. It appears they got into a dispute, w Luche hit him over the head with a club. He accounpapied an officer to arrest Luche, and, on returning to he Station-House, Engle fell down in a fit, and mained in an insensible condition for some hours. Yesterday Police-Surgeon Ball administered to his necessities. He pronounces him in a critical condition.

Luche was committed to await the result of the injuries inflicted.

THE BROOKLYS NAVY YARD, - A Washington letter writer says:

writer eays:

"There has been a leak discovered in the outlays of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. When the Committee of Ways and Meens was engaged in making out its appropriation bill, the fact was developed that the expenditures at Brooklyn station have exceeded all calculations by upward of \$409,000. The result is that instead of \$600,000 only \$200,000 will be recommended by Mr. Glancy Jones and his associates for the Navy Yard at New-York. This brings the metropolis down almost to the level of Philadelphia, for I believe the Navy Yard there is to have \$125,000. The question is, what has become of the money at the Brooklyn Yard? This question will be answered, I presume, by a Committee of Investigation."

THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION. - The Relief Association of the Eastern District have now the names of over 700 families, mostly Americans, to whom they are affording temporary relief to as great an extent as their funds will admit. The amount expended up to Saturdey last was \$2,300, and the amount of funds on hand is quite small, in consequence of the subscription lists being handed in very tardily. The average number of leaves of bread distributed each week is 1,300. The Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, states that new applications are made every day by respectable families who have struggled along until the last momeal, with small sums deposited in the bank, and by disposing of every available article in their houses. The first severe cold storm, he anticipates that the suffering will be greater than ever before known, and possibly in some cases will result in death by starvation and cold.

NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

ARETHET SAVE .- The recent sad calamity in Brooklyn has awakened a desire in the Board of Educati f Jersey City, to ascertain whether or not their school buildings are secured against such an occurrence. the last meeting of the Board a resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Buildings to visit and examine into the construction and arrangement of the beating apparatus of the several public schools, also whether the formation of the stairs are such as to afford safe egress for the children in case of alarm from fire or otherwise; and also whether all the doors are hung to open outward. The Committee were given power to remedy anything which, in their judgment. may require it.

STEAMBOAT ALTERED.-The Camden and Amber Railroad Company have had the steamboat Burlington altered, in order to allow cars to be carried on it, and thus save the necessity of handling the freight so of Four tracks have been laid, and care can now be run directly on the boat from the depot. A new hurricens deck has also been added, and the boat is now in capital running order.

INQUEST .- Coroner McAnnelly, of Jersey City, was